

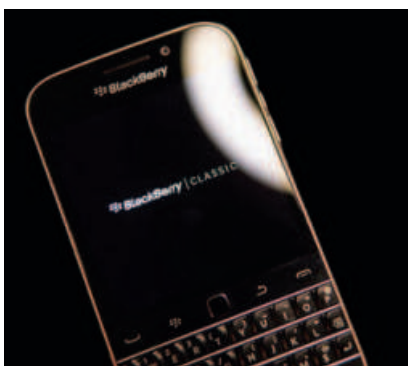
END OF AN ERA

Iconic BlackBerry phones no longer work

The once-indispensable classic BlackBerry devices stopped working after 4 January.

The Canadian company has decided to pull the plug on new updates of its operating system, meaning that most BlackBerries that became synonymous with the emerging mobile digital culture of recent decades will not operate properly after 4 January.

"As of this date, devices running these legacy services and software through either carrier or Wi-Fi connections will no longer reliably function, including for data, phone calls, SMS and emergency



functionality," the company said on its website last month.

The "end-of-life" (EOL) move

impacts BlackBerry 7.1 OS and earlier, BlackBerry 10 software, BlackBerry PlayBook OS 2.1 and earlier versions.

However, devices using Google's Android OS, including the BlackBerry KEY2 released in 2018 and designed by China's TCL Group, would not be affected by the changes, according to the company.

The EOL decision marks the end of an era in mobile telephony, which reached its peak in the late 2000s when BlackBerry met with widespread commercial success, especially among professionals, for its large QWERTY keyboard.

EDITOR'S NOTE

A balancing act

Life does not come with a manual. There are often times we are thrust with a new responsibility with little idea on how to do a good job at it. Especially in young managerial or team leader roles, it is difficult to know exactly how to find the right balance between amiability and productiveness among coworkers.

Check out our Cover Story for know-how on the responsibilities of being a young team leader, and how someone relatively inexperienced in managerial roles can maintain proper workplace dynamics. Don't let societal standards restrict your ambitions. Hard work and perseverance always shines at the end of the day.

As for the other pages, read about the legendary Lancia cars and their history in World Rally Championships in this week's Shift. Our streak of buying guides continues, with the most affordable wireless earphones in the current market listed in Bytes and for Tech Tips, our most recommended tips when buying a new laptop. We also reviewed the new crime mystery show, Only Murders in the Building. As always, something for everyone!

Have a great week everyone. Stay safe.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy
Sub-editor & Feature Writer

Fineanswer launched app for helping study abroad



On 29 December 2021, the local education support platform Fineanswer launched the overseas education app Fineanswer Study Abroad. According to Fineanswer, this app will provide Bangladeshi students who are interested in studying abroad with all the crucial information they might require.

Fineanswer Study Abroad contains 10,000 course details from the top 500 globally ranked universities. Students will also find information regarding visa applications, the latest scholarships and free webinars on higher studies.

The app was created by a team of six students from Jahangirnagar University, with over 50 university students from all over the country contributing as data collectors.

According to Ariful Islam Bhuiyan, CEO and Managing Director of Fineanswer Study Abroad, this app will help remove the information barrier and act as a proper guideline for students attempting to apply abroad for higher studies. The app is currently available in both Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

Netgear launches online store

On 8 January, the US networking hardware company Netgear launched their flagship online store in Bangladesh, netgearstore.com.bd. This website will serve as a retail platform where customers can order Netgear products directly online.

According to Netgear, their online store will support both cash on delivery and credit/debit card purchase options. Local orders will be facilitated by the exclusive distributor of Netgear in Bangladesh, Computer City Technologies Ltd. The website currently offers devices such as WiFi routers, Bluetooth speakers and mobile holders.

The Netgear online store offers two-day shipping within Dhaka and a free consultancy service which will help customers with product selection. When purchasing Netgear products, customers will have the option to add Pro Installation Service for a fixed charge, with which an appointed technician will come to the designated address to install the product.



OPPO to launch new folding phone Find N

OPPO is launching their first foldable flagship phone, Find N. Its frame features a golden folding ratio and a display fold with a buffer-free area. According to OPPO, the crease in the buffer-free area is 80% less noticeable than other foldable devices.

Alongside announcing a new phone, in a signing ceremony on 7 January, Shakib Al Hasan was appointed as the new brand ambassador of OPPO. According to OPPO, this new partnership

falls in line with their idea of 'Inspiration Ahead', pushing the drive towards innovative new technology.

Damon Yang, Managing Director of OPPO Bangladesh, was present during the deal signing held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). He said, "I am confident this partnership will promote development and facilitate joint activities and projects between us."

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